(c) Of the channels permitted to uplink from within the country, Aaj Tak, Sun News, Udaya News, Jain TV, Punjab Today, Zee News etc. have started 24-hour news operations. In addition, there are other 24- hour news channels uplinked from abroad but available for viewing in Indian TV homes through cable networks like Star News, CNN, BBC etc.

Disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL

*16. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disinvestment of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has been put off for a period of three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the decision marks a shift in Government's disinvestment policy; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) In February 2002. Government had decided 'in principle' to disinvest in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) through strategic sale with the modalities to be worked out through consultations between the different ministries concerned on which several options are available. Final decision has not been taken so far.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Health care facilities

*17. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the immediate health care facilities needed by the people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any Centrally-sponsored or externally aided scheme is